

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 PM-05 NSCE-00 INR-10  
CIAE-00 OMB-01 DOTE-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 H-01 SSO-00  
INRE-00 MCE-00 SP-02 /062 W  
-----042069 071024Z /12

O R 070805Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2524  
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
SECDEF WASHDC  
JCS WASHDC  
DIRNSA  
USNMR SHAPE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
COAST GUARD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 4977

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, TU  
SUBJECT: US/TURKEY DEFENSE COOPERATION: POSSIBLE INTERIM  
ARRANGEMENT

REF: STATE 169609 (DTG 052056Z JUL 78)

1. AMBASSADOR MET WITH SECGEN ELEKDAG THE AFTERNOON OF  
JULY 6 TO CONVEY INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED PARAS 4 AND 5, REFTEL.  
THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT THE SECRETARY AND OTHER  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAD ASSURED CONGRESS THAT THE  
LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WOULD LEAD TO THE PROMPT RE-OPENING  
OF THE US INSTALLATIONS IN TURKEY. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT  
THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORT WITH RESPECT TO THE EMBARGO  
WAS PRINCIPALLY MOTIVATED BY OUR DESIRE TO RESTORE,  
ON A BROADER BASIS, THE TRADITIONAL CLOSE US/TURKISH  
RELATIONSHIP. HOWEVER, MANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAD  
SOUGHT SPECIFIC ADMINISTRATION ASSURANCES WITH RESPECT  
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TO THE RESUMPTION OF OPERATIONS AT OUR INSTALLATIONS,  
A POINT ALSO IMPORTANT TO US. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE  
FULLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE US AND TURKEY DISAGREED ON  
THE ISSUE OF THE VALIDITY OF THE 1969 DCA BUT THAT,  
DESPITE THIS, THE US HOPED THAT TURKEY WOULD BE ABLE  
TO FIND AN INTERIM BASIS UNDER WHICH THE INSTALLATIONS  
COULD BEGIN OPERATIONS QUICKLY AFTER THE EMBARGO WAS

LIFTED AND WITHOUT AWAITING NEGOTIATION OF A NEW DCA

2. ELEKDAG SAID THAT FOR THE GOT THE 1969 DCA IS "DEAD AND BURIED" AND THAT THE LEGAL POSITION OF THE US WITH RESPECT TO THAT AGREEMENT WAS "THIN". HE SAID THAT THE POSITION OF HIS GOVERNMENT WAS AS STATED BY THE PRIMIN: THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WILL LEAD TO RAPID NEGOTIATION OF THE LEGAL BASIS UNDER WHICH THE US MILITARY OPERATIONS OF THE INSTALLATIONS CAN BE RESUMED. ELEKDAG NOTED THAT ECEVIT HAD TOLD HIM THAT IT WAS ONLY THE ABSENCE OF A "LEGAL BASIS" THAT IMPEDED THE RESUMPTION OF US MILITARY OPERATIONS FOLLOWING THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. THERE WERE NO "POLITICAL" MOTIVES TO THE TURKISH POSITION. ELEKDAG ADDED THAT, PERSONALLY SPEAKING, HE FELT THE REMOVAL OF THE EMBARGO WOULD CREATE A CLIMATE IN WHICH RAPID NEGOTIATION OF A NEW DCA COULD TAKE PLACE, AND HE REITERATED ECCEVIT'S OFFER TO BEGIN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS EVEN BEFORE THE EMBARGO IS REPEALED.

3. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT THE GOT WOULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO OUR SUGGESTION OF AN INTERIM AGREEMENT AND SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO TELL THE CONGRESS THAT THIS WAS NOT RULED OUT. ELEKDAG REPEATED HIS BELIEF THAT AN INTERIM AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD NOT TAKE THIS AS A CONFIDENTIAL

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REJECTION OF OUR IDEA.

4. IN THE COURSE OF A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF "PROVISIONAL STATUS", ELEKDAG INDICATED THAT THE GOT MIGHT BE ABLE TO REMOVE RESTRICTIONS APPLIED TO US INSTALLATIONS SHORT OF ALLOWING THE ACTUAL RESUMPTION OF OPERATIONS. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT EVEN IF A NEW "LEGAL BASIS" FOR THE INSTALLATIONS COULD BE NEGOTIATED QUICKLY, IT WOULD TAKE UP TO SIX MONTHS FOR SOME OF OUR INSTALLATIONS TO RESTORE EQUIPMENT AFTER THREE YEARS OF INACTIVITY AND TO BEGIN OPERATIONS. NEW PERSONNEL AND MATERIAL WOULD HAVE TO BE SENT IN TO PREPARE FOR RESUMPTION OF OPERATIONS, AND THIS WAS PRESENTLY RESTRICTED BY "PROVISIONAL STATUS." BY THAT TIME, THE AMBASSADOR SAID, WE COULD AGAIN BE INTO A CONGRESSIONAL CYCLE ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND CONGRESS WOULD BE CONCERNED IF THE BASES WERE NOT OPERATING SO LONG AFTER THE EMBARGO WERE LIFTED. FOR EXAMPLE, IF TURKEY ACCEPTS OUR OFFER TO SUPPORT TOTAL TURKISH OPERATION OF KARGABURUN AND BELBASI, WHY CAN'T OPERATIONS THERE BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER LIFTING THE EMBARGO? IN CONCLUSION, THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS FORWARD MOTION WITH RESPECT TO RESUMING US MILITARY

ACTIVITIES IN TURKEY. ANYTHING LESS WOULD RISK DISSIPATING  
THE POSITIVE EFFECT THAT WILL RESULT FROM LIFTING THE  
EMBARGO.

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 PM-05 NSCE-00 INR-10  
CIAE-00 OMB-01 DOTE-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 H-01 SSO-00  
INRE-00 MCE-00 SP-02 /062 W  
-----042553 071026Z /21

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 4977

5. ELEKDAG VOLUNTEERED TO REVIEW WAYS IN WHICH "PROVISIONAL  
STATUS" MIGHT BE ALTERED TO ALLOW US TO MAKE THE INSTALLATIONS  
READY FOR OPERATIONS DURING NEGOTIATION OF A NEW DCA.  
THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT THIS WOULD BE USEFUL BUT THAT  
HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE NOT DIRECTED TO A REQUEST FOR SUCH  
A HALF LOAF AND AGAIN REQUESTED SERIOUS GOT STUDY OF OUR  
PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS.

6. SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING WITH ELEKDAG, EMBASSY MUTUAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS OFFICER REVIEWED GOT POSITION ON INTERIM  
RESUMPTION OF US OPERATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR  
OF DEFENSE AGREEMENTS, HALUK OZGUL. OZGUL SAID THAT HE  
PREPARED BRIEF FOR ELEKDAG'S MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR  
WHICH WOULD HAVE INDICATED GOT WAS WILLING TO BE FLEXIBLE  
ON ISSUE OF LIFTING "PROVISIONAL STATUS." ELEKDAG, OZGUL SAID,  
WAS MORE CAUTIOUS WITH THE AMBASSADOR, BEING PRIMARILY  
CONCERNED ABOUT THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL EFFECT OF PERMITTING  
RESUMPTION OF OPERATIONS AT US FACILITIES IN ABSENCE OF A  
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DCA. HOWEVER, OZGUL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF AREAS IN WHICH THE GOT COULD SHOW FLEXIBILITY WITHOUT DEMONSTRATING TO TURKISH PUBLIC THAT THE US WAS FULLY BACK IN BUSINESS IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AGREEMENT APPROVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROPRIATE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES. TURKISH FLEXIBILITY, ENSUING DISCUSSION REVEALED, MIGHT INCLUDE RELAXATION OF CERTAIN "PROVISIONAL STATUS" RESTRICTIONS, RESTORATION OF "SUSPENDED" NATO/SOFA EXTENSION AND TAX RELIEF AGREEMENTS, AND PROVISION FOR USG TO RESTORE INSTALLATIONS TO OPERATING CONDITION. OZGUL OFFERED TO EXPLORE THESE IDEAS FURTHER WITH EMBOFFS NEXT WEEK, AN OFFER THAT WE WILL TAKE UP.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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